



Regional Service Council Minutes Region 5

Meeting Date: November 16, 2012

Meeting Location: Department of Child Services
Tippecanoe County Office
250 Main St., Ste 301
Lafayette, IN

Council Members Present: Angela Smith Grossman, Regional Manager; Barbara Bedrick, Director White County DCS; Sarah Sailors, Director Carroll County DCS; Jennifer Johnson, Clinton County FCM; Penny Neal, Warren County FCM; Paige Heath, FCM Supervisor, Tippecanoe County; Stacey Morgan, Clinton County FCM Supervisor; Magistrate Graham, Tippecanoe; Coleen Hamrick by Proxy Connie Schneck, Tippecanoe County CASA; Debbie Brenneman, Foster Parent and Elva James, Director Benton County DCS.

Council Members Absent: Judge Rader, Warren County; Judge Henderson, Fountain County.

Others In Attendance: Tom Gilliam and dianna Huddleston, Wabash Valley Alliance; Rebecca Humphrey; Hong Nguyen; Lois Logan-Beard; Sandy Lock, Director Clinton County DCS; Angie Guimond, Director Tippecanoe County DCS; Sonya Janssen-Luper, Director Fountain/Warren County DCS; Darrel Noonkester, Parent-Relative Locator; Traci Larrison, Education Specialist; Kevin Hintzman, Tippecanoe County FCM Supervisor and Keith Luebcke, Tippecanoe County FCM

Meeting Minutes

Meeting Called to Order at: 9:00 am

1. Introductions of new members –

Penny Neal, Warren County Family Case Manager

Paige Heath, Tippecanoe County Family Case Manager Supervisor

Debbie Brenneman, Foster Parent

Magistrate Faith Graham is representing Judge Rush

Connie Schneck attending by proxy for Coleen Hamrick

2. Community Partners

This year's allocations haven't been released yet. Assuming this year's allocations will be similar to last year's, Angela created a spreadsheet using those numbers and this year's expenditures to date. Angela is in hopes of more accurate information before the January meeting. Region 5 has also been given \$182,000 extra to be used for services only, not prevention. Wabash Valley will receive \$72,000 and Bauer the remainder. It will be important to watch this money and be sure it is put to use. Wabash Valley has brochures that describe services they offer that may help in knowing what services are available.

In August, Sonya Janssen-Luper requested an award of \$900 be set aside for Body Safety, a prevention education program to be delivered in Warren County schools in late August. Because this program would be conducted prior to the next RSC meeting date, a request was made for an electronic vote for this expenditure. This request was approved via email.

Sarah Sailors made a request for \$7000 for the Olweus Bullying Prevention Program for Delphi School Corporation. Traci Larrison, Education Specialist stated this is a great, very comprehensive program. Barb Bedrick made a motion to approve this request. Elva James seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Tom Gilliom stated that through October 42.5% of the Wabash Valley Community Partners' budget has been spent. He will work with Angela for spending the additional \$72,000.

3. Biennial Plan

There are three basic areas.

Relatives – Sonya Janssen-Luper

Forms have been developed that are supported by statewide policy.

The goal is to get all specialists doing the same work. The forms and policy have been developed and are in use, though there may be some modifications along the way.

Fatherhood – Kevin Hintzman

The committee has met several times. One of their goals is to identify providers from other Regions so when a father lives outside of our

Region they can still have access to services. There is a statewide fatherhood conference with monthly conference calls. A large part of the goal is education of staff.

Statistics:

Tippecanoe County is servicing 39 fathers. Fourteen of the 39 have their kids living in the home with them. Seventeen have regular visitation.

There are 41 cases open in Tippecanoe County, three in Fountain/Warren, one in Carroll, and one in Clinton and five in White County

14 of the 39 in the program have their kids living in the home with them.

Crossover Youth – Keith Luebcke

These are kids who are currently involved or at risk. Focuses on the barriers between DCS and Probation. Identify individual needs.

Educating local staff in both offices. In services are facilitated by both agencies as they each learn what services are provided by the other.

A committee is being created with school personnel, probation, DCS and community agencies that will brainstorm for families' services.

Probation officers are encouraged to attend meetings from the beginning. There is a disconnect between the agencies that makes it more difficult. They are trying not to duplicate services.

4. Parent-Relative Locator- Darrel Noonkester

Everyone in Darrel's unit must be a former law enforcement officer. They locate missing relatives (usually fathers). They have a 95%-98% success rate. His area is Region 5. There are three parent-relative locators in northwest Indiana and they locate anyone beneficial to the child. They helped find a ward that had run away and also found a grandmother for a child that had been an orphan. This is a big help in the notification of TPR parents and preventing mom's showing up at the last minute and changing the permanency plan.

5. Educational Specialist – Traci Larrison

There are 16 Educational Specialists and they cover Region 5 as well as 1 and 2. They insure that all kids in our care are getting their educational needs met. They help child to be in the right classroom, attendance, parents/foster parents advocate for the child, meet with the school and attend conferences. Kids in DCS care tend to be behind and she helps them catch up. She is a valuable resource and we should let the schools know of her existence and her authority.

6. Permanency Roundtable

Discussion about the success with hardcore, long term, challenging cases. Region 5 is unique in that our length of stay is so low that we have had to go down to 400 days. There will be a fifth round of PRT in January or February. Probation will run one of their cases. This is an internal process, mostly people from other areas of the state. CASA will provide contribution but will not be a part of the process. It is brainstorming with no holds barred, thinking outside of the box. DCS will help Probation walk through the process if desired.

7. Budget

There are still no approved numbers for allocations. Using last year's numbers, 25% of last year's budget has been spent to date this year. We are in good shape so far. Institution kids are the big budget items. Regional budget will be adjusted as needed.

Meeting adjourned at 9:55 am

Next meeting is January 25, 2013 @ 9:00 am

Respectfully submitted,
Angela Smith Grossman, MSW, LSW
Regional Manager, Region 5